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REMARKS

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-19 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,476,478). The Examiner contends that Jackson discloses a face lifting apparatus which has a reinforced seam (30) and a generally resilient border extending around an outer perimeter (36) of the hair net. However, a detailed review of Jackson clearly shows that neither feature is disclosed in this reference. Moreover, the reference teaches away from a resilient border. All of the elements of the Jackson device are referred to as non-distensible which clearly would not suggest a resilient border as contended by the Examiner.

The element (30) is a strap formed of non-distensible material secured to the hair net, it is not a seam as called for in the present claims. The Examiner concludes that it would be obvious to have a device formed of two sections because constructing an integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. However, the main feature of the invention is missed by the Examiner, namely, a skin retaining element at the end of a reinforced seam joining the two sections of the hair. There is no suggestion of where to form a reinforced seam in the reference and no relationship between the seam and the skin retaining element.

Applicants submit that the Jackson reference cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest a reinforced seam, a skin retaining element at the end of a reinforced and a resilient border extending around the outer perimeter of the hair net. The Examiner has not recited any reference which discloses these features. That being the case, the Examiner's rejection is not supportable. Applicants submit that the pending

claims define patentable subject matter. Further consideration of the application and an early allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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